WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A flexibly adaptable asset management system for deploying asset
2 management functions to a client application for manipulating assets, representing data, in a
3 data store, using classes for transfers between the data store and the client application, the
4 system comprising:
5   an asset manager server disposed between the client application and the data store,
6 the asset manager server including:
7   at least one client adapter for providing interface functions between the client
8   application and the asset manager server;
9   at least one schema adapter for mapping the assets to the data stored in the
10   data store and for transferring the data to and from the data store in response to
11   methods invoked in the at least one client adapter by the client application; and
12   at least one object oriented class, being one of the classes, wherein an
13   instance of the at least one object oriented class encapsulates the data and associated
14   behaviors for transferring between the at least one schema adapter and the client
15   application through the at least one client adapter,
16   wherein, the at least one object oriented class is flexibly adaptable, thereby allowing
17 the system to do one or more of handle different data types and associated behaviors and
18 handle additional client applications.

1   2.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one schema adapter is
2 specific to a particular one of the assets, an asset being meta data for a particular data type.

1   3.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the asset manager server further
2 comprises external services for providing a link between the at least one schema adapter and
3 the data store.

1   4.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one schema adapter:
2   calls a specific template for the at least one object oriented class;
3   produces the instance of the at least one object oriented class from the template; and
4   initializes the instance of the object oriented class prior to the transferring between
5 the at least one schema adapter and the client application through the at least one client
6 adapter.

1   5.   The system according to claim 3, wherein the at least one schema adapter

2 calls the specific template for the at least one object oriented class using the data type and an

3 action path provided to the at least one schema adapter from the client application through the

4 at least one client adapter.

1   6.   A method of flexibly adapting asset management system for deploying asset

2 management functions to a client application for manipulating assets, representing data, in a

3 data store, using classes for transfers between the data store and the client application, the

4 system comprising:

5   an asset manager server disposed between the client application and the data store,

6 the asset manager server including:

7   at least one client adapter for providing interface functions between the client

8   application and the asset manager server;

9   at least one schema adapter for mapping the assets to the data stored in the

10   data store and for transferring the data to and from the data store in response to

11   methods invoked in the at least one client adapter by the client application; and

12   at least one object oriented class, being one of the classes, wherein an

13   instance of the at least one object oriented class encapsulates the data and associated

14   behaviors for transferring between the at least one schema adapter and the client

15   application through the at least one client adapter,

16   wherein, the at least one object oriented class is flexibly adaptable, thereby allowing

17 the system to do one or more of handle different data types and associated behaviors and

18 handle additional client applications,

19   the method comprising creating a new object oriented class by:

20   choosing a template for the new object oriented class;

21   choosing a domain for an instance of the new object oriented class; and

22   implementing methods for retrieving and setting values for the instance of the new

23 object oriented class.

1   7.   The method according to claim 6, where the at least one schema adapter is

2 specific to a particular one of the assets, an asset being meta data for a particular data type.

1   8.   The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

2   creating a local copy of the instance of the new object oriented class in the client

3   application; and

4   implementing remote and local methods and interfaces to support the instance and

5   the local copy of the instance respectively.

1   9.   The method according to claim 6, wherein the asset manager server further

2   comprises external services for providing a link between the at least one schema adapter and

3   the data store.

1   10.   The method according to claim 6, wherein the at least one schema adapter:

2   calls a specific template for the at least one object oriented class;

3   produces the instance of the at least one object oriented class from the specific

4   template; and

5   initializes the instance of the object oriented class prior to the transferring between

6   the at least one schema adapter and the client application through the at least one client

7   adapter.

1   11.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the at least one schema adapter

2   calls the specific template for the at least one object oriented class using the data type and an

3   action path provided to the at least one schema adapter from the client application through the

4   at least one client adapter.

1   12.   A program storage device readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a

2   program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps flexibly

3   adapting an asset management system for deploying asset management functions to a client

4   application for manipulating assets, representing data, in a data store, using classes for

5   transfers between the data store and the client application, the system comprising:

6   an asset manager server disposed between the client application and the data store,

7   the asset manager server including:

8   at least one client adapter for providing interface functions between the client

9   application and the asset manager server;

10   at least one schema adapter for mapping the assets to the data stored in the

11   data store and for transferring the data to and from the data store in response to

12   methods invoked in the at least one client adapter by the client application; and

13   at least one object oriented class, being one of the classes, wherein an

14   instance of the at least one object oriented class encapsulates the data and associated

15   behaviors for transferring between the at least one schema adapter and the client

16   application through the at least one client adapter,

17   wherein, the at least one object oriented class is flexibly adaptable, thereby allowing

18 the system to do one or more of handle different data types and associated behaviors and

19 handle additional client applications,

20   the method comprising creating new ones of the at least one object oriented class by:

21   choosing a template for the new object oriented class;

22   choosing a domain for an instance of the new object oriented class; and

23   implementing methods for retrieving and setting values for the instance of the new

24 object oriented class.

1   13. The program storage device according to claim 12, wherein the at least one

2 schema adapter is specific to a particular one of the assets, an asset being meta data for a

3 particular data type.

1   14. The program storage device according to claim 12, further comprising the

2 steps of:

3   creating a local copy of the instance of the new object oriented class in the client

4 application; and

5   implementing remote and local methods and interfaces to support the instance and

6 the local copy of the instance respectively.

1   15. The program storage device according to claim 12, wherein the asset

2 manager server further comprises external services for providing a link between the at least

3 one schema adapter and the data store.

1   16. The program storage device according to claim 12, wherein the at least one

2 schema adapter:

3   calls a specific template for the at least one object oriented class;

4   produces the instance of the at least one object oriented class from the specific

5   template; and

6   initializes the instance of the object oriented class prior to the transferring between

7   the at least one schema adapter and the client application through the at least one client

8   adapter.

1   17.   The program storage device according to claim 16, wherein the at least one

2   schema adapter calls the specific template for the at least one object oriented class using the

3   data type and an action path provided to the at least one schema adapter from the client

4   application through the at least one client adapter.

1   18.   A system for flexibly adapting an asset manager for deploying asset

2   management functions to a client application for manipulating assets, representing data, in a

3   data store, using classes for transfers between the data store and the client application, the

4   system comprising:

5   an asset manager server disposed between the client application and the data store,

6   the asset manager server including:

7   at least one client adapter for providing interface functions between the client

8   application and the asset manager server;

9   at least one schema adapter for mapping the assets to the data stored in the

10   data store and for transferring the data to and from the data store in response to

11   methods invoked in the at least one client adapter by the client application; and

12   at least one object oriented class, being one of the classes, wherein an

13   instance of the at least one object oriented class encapsulates the data and associated

14   behaviors for transferring between the at least one schema adapter and the client

15   application through the at least one client adapter,

16   wherein, the at least one object oriented class is flexibly adaptable, thereby allowing

17   the system to do one or more of handle different data types and associated behaviors and

18   handle additional client applications, and

19   further wherein, a new object oriented class is created by:

20   choosing a template for the new object oriented class;

21   choosing a domain for an instance of the new object oriented class; and

33

22   implementing methods for retrieving and setting values for the instance of the new

23   object oriented class.

1   19.   The system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one schema adapter is

2   specific to a particular one of the assets, an asset being meta data for a particular data type.

1   20.   The system according to claim 18, wherein the new object oriented class is

2   created by further:

3   creating a local copy of the instance of the new object oriented class in the client

4   application; and

5   implementing remote and local methods and interfaces to support the instance and

6   the local copy of the instance respectively.

1   21.   The system according to claim 18, wherein the asset manager server further

2   comprises external services for providing a link between the at least one schema adapter and

3   the data store.

1   22.   The system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one schema adapter:

2   calls a specific template for the at least one object oriented class;

3   produces the instance of the at least one object oriented class from the specific

4   template; and

5   initializes the instance of the object oriented class prior to the transferring between

6   the at least one schema adapter and the client application through the at least one client

7   adapter.

1   23.   The system according to claim 22, wherein the at least one schema adapter

2   calls the specific template for the at least one object oriented class using the data type and an

3   action path provided to the at least one schema adapter from the client application through the

4   at least one client adapter.